

Inquiries of the Ministry

approve of the words of Mr. Andre Laurendeau, co-chairman of a royal commission, who wrote in *Le Devoir*, as quoted on page 268 of *Hansard*, in these terms with reference to the role of the Queen's representative in this country at the beginning of this session:

—those who no longer count have a monopoly on uniforms and all the trappings?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will examine Mr. Laurendeau's statement and I might be able to give a reply to the hon. member next week.

[*Text*]

PENITENTIARIES**REMOVAL OF WOMEN'S PRISON FROM KINGSTON TO CORNWALL, ONT.**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. In view of the very serious allegations being made by the Elizabeth Fry society relative to the location of the new women's prison in Cornwall, and to the effect that the former minister of justice promised to consult them before making this decision and broke his promise and made the decision on his own; and in view of the very serious allegation that this is out and out patronage, will the minister investigate this very serious charge and make a statement to the house early next week whether or not a minister of the crown did so break his promise?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure that there never was a breach of promise, but I will be pleased to report to the house whether or not the society in question has made representations.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister of Justice not ready to answer my question of yesterday on this subject?

Mr. Favreau: Yes. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre asked two questions. The first was whether a decision had been taken to remove the women's prison from Kingston to Cornwall, and the answer is yes. The second question was whether there had been protests made by some university and professional people in Kingston, and the answer is yes; there have been protests from people who feel that the institution should be near a university but not necessarily in Kingston.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, if the reason for moving the women's jail from Kingston to Cornwall is not political

[*Mr. Pigeon.*]

and on a patronage basis, what was the reason for making this decision?

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, the Canadian penitentiary service operates one prison for women. Since 1930 the institution has been located at Kingston, Ontario. The inmate population is, on the average, 120 females. The present building is quite unsuited for a modern program of inmate training. Almost half of the inmates are narcotic addicts from British Columbia.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Favreau: This is certainly no reflection. When the narcotic addict treatment institution now under construction at Matsqui, British Columbia, is opened in 1965 these inmates will no longer be sent to eastern Canada for custody and training. The new institution to be constructed in 1965 will be designed to provide custody and training for some 150 female inmates, approximately one third of whom will come from the province of Ontario, one third from the province of Quebec and one third from the other provinces.

It is desirable that the institution should be located in a place where it can conveniently serve the two provinces from which the majority of its inmates will come. It is also desirable that it should be reasonably close to Ottawa so that its operations can be readily supervised by the headquarters of the penitentiary service. This is the only female institution. Cornwall is a bilingual city with a population of almost 45,000. It is 75 miles from Montreal, 75 miles from Ottawa and 275 miles from Toronto.

An hon. Member: How far from Halifax?

Another hon. Member: How far from British Columbia?

Mr. Favreau: It meets substantially all the criteria that have been proposed by penologists in respect of the location of prisons.

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Kootenay East): May I ask a supplementary question. I think it is necessary to overcome some of the unfavourable publicity given to British Columbia by the minister. Does the minister know that the diamond-D curling championship was won by the women from British Columbia this week?

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a supplementary question. May I ask the minister whether further consideration will be given to this matter in the light of the protests that have been made by the university and professional people of Kingston, as well as by the Elizabeth Fry society?